

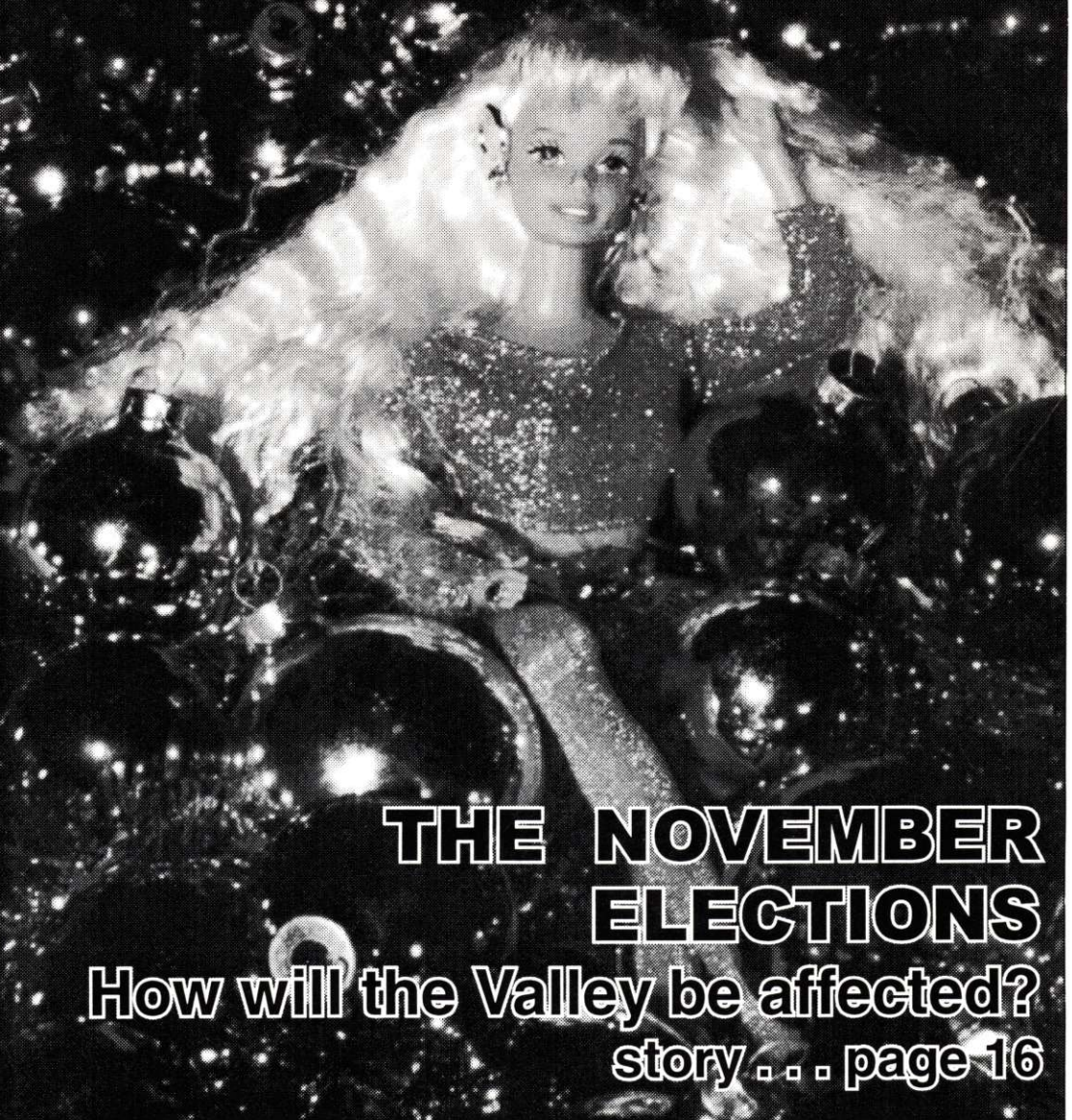
Vol. 2 Issue 12

December 1995

ABOVE ▽ GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

Happy Holidays!



THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

How will the Valley be affected?
story . . . page 16

DIAMONZ



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*"I would like to Thank Everyone
for a 3rd Successful Year!"*

Laura



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DECEMBER 23

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Editor Speaks!

I would like to welcome two new clubs to our readership. B-TLS (pronounced "beetles") is located in Harrisburg, PA. Babes', located between Wilkes-Barre and Pittston, just opened their doors last month and has had fabulous public response. Both clubs are geared towards women; *so girls*, let's not be hearing that there's no place to go!!

To all of our readership I would like to wish a happy and healthy holiday season. We look forward to the New Year ahead of us.

M. Hemphill

Letters

Editor,

In response to your article titled "Bar-Jerk, Take the Test" in the November issue, I can only say, "Bravo!!" I have never been a bartender, but I've seen the less desirable habits occur more than I care to remember.

For quite some time I have been trying to figure out just how to tell a friend of mine about his embarrassing bar etiquette, but was unsure as to how to do it tastefully. You did just that for me! Believe it or not, he actually read the article. And more importantly, he asked me if he was like that!! Fortunately, he was able to take the truth with good humor as he was able to say, "well at least I didn't get them all wrong!"

Keep up the good work with the magazine, it's a valuable and welcome addition to the other publications available to our community.

Sincerely,

M.K. - Doylestown, PA

Thanks for your words of approval and encouragement! Having been personally involved in the food and beverage industry, on and off, for around twenty years, I've experienced many less-than-desirable moments. I must also admit that, from time to time, I have unintentionally played the role of the "Oh no, it's him" customer.

It was our intention to pass along the message behind the article in a light-hearted way, while not being too offensive. You know, we all need a kick in the pants once in a while, but it doesn't have to come from a steel-tipped boot!

Thanks again for your letter, and keep us posted as to how we are doing!

-M. Hemphill, editor

ABOVEGROUND is published monthly by COBALT BLUE with the release date being the first day of each month. Advertising copy deadline is the 15th day of the month previous to release date.

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ABOVEGROUND

PO Box 1656

Allentown, PA 18105-1656

A Look Back



Left:
Some of the
"girls" doll it up
at Stonewall's
Halloween Party:
"Masquerade
Ball at the
Haunted Mansion"

Right:
The Addams
Family is all
together at
Diamonz's
Halloween
"Monster
Mash"



Miss Cartwheel



Left:
The newly
crowned
**Miss
Cartwheel
1996
Miss
Demeanor**

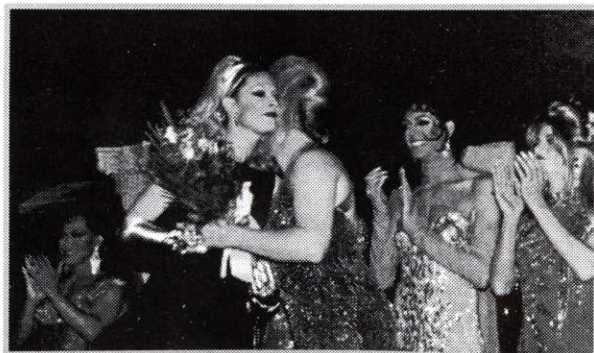
Right:
Joy, Miss Cartwheel
1995, gives a rousing
performance before
handing over her
crown.



Left:
Cartwheel's MC
Monica Rey
keeps the night's
activities moving
right along



Below: Cartwheel's runner-ups receive their applause



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HE'S DEFINITELY OUT OF TOWN!**

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Ms Stonewall



Left:
The newly crowned
Ms
Stonewall
1996
Jody
Lynn

Right:
Contestant
Amanda Love
entertains the
crowd as
Dorothy.



Left:
Stonewall's MC,
Tinsel Garland
enchants the
crowd as Glenda

Right:
Stonewall's First
runner-up, Corrine
Michaels, taunts
the judges.



The Scarab

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Your hosts:
Brian (owner)
Keith (manager)

Our 13th Anniversary Party!!

featuring
from New York City,
Female Impersonator
"Diana Ross"
Saturday, Dec. 16

(cover)

The
Christmas
Drag Show
Mon., Dec 11
(cover)

Mondays:

- * Drink Special 10-12
- * DJ 10pm - 2am

Tuesdays:

- * Drink Special 10-12
- * Karaoke 10pm-2am

Wednesdays:

- * Special
Happy Hour
- * Coupon Night
- * DJ 11 pm - 2am

Thursdays:

- * Drink Special 10-12
- * Oldies Night
- * DJ 10pm - 2am

Fridays and Saturdays:

- * Special Happy Hour
- * DJ 10pm - 2am



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CONGRESSMAN McHALE CO-SPONSORS ENDA

On Thursday, October 26, us Representative Paul McHale added his name to the list of Congresspeople co-sponsoring the Federal Employment Non Discrimination Act. ENDA would prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation. Congressman McHale promised Pennsylvania LGLV Vice Chair Steve Black during a March meeting that he would sign on as a co-sponsor. Over the past month, Black made several calls to the Congressman's Washington staff, encouraging McHale to fulfill his promise.

Black said, "McHale's action shows he is willing to be a leader in the fight for equality. This is no small step for the Congressman. I've been discussing gay rights issues with him for three years. McHale is afraid this may cost him votes in the next election. The Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Community must show McHale that his actions are appreciated and will only gain him political support."

LGLV, in conjunction with the Human Rights Campaign and volunteers from the Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Task Force, coordinated an aggressive letter writing campaign in the summer and fall of 1994. The Human Rights Campaign supplied a computer and patrons at Diamondz and Stonewall were asked to send personalized letters to McHale encouraging him to support and co-sponsor ENDA.

Employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is prohibited in only 9 states and about 100 cities. Pennsylvania does not have law that prohibits anti-gay discrimination and only 5 PA cities (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Lancaster and York) have laws prohibiting such discrimination. Lehigh Valley Employers that have internal policies against anti-gay job discrimination include: Air Products & Chemicals, Bethlehem Steel, AT&T, Northampton County CoreStates Bank, and the Northampton Community College.

ENDA has been introduced in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. McHale joins 29 co-sponsors in the Senate and 128 in the House. It is important to note that the number of co-sponsors increased since last year, even though the republicans control Congress. Among the Pennsylvania Delegation, 3 other Congressman have signed on as co-sponsors: Rep. Foglietta and Rep. Fattah of Philadelphia and Rep. Coyne of Pittsburgh. Senator Arlen Specter has stated that he supports the bill but will not sign on as a co-sponsor.

McHale's action comes a week after President Bill Clinton announced his support for the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). President Clinton's actions mark the first time in history that a President of the United States has endorsed a major piece of lesbian and gay legislation. Clinton has joined the overwhelming majority of Americans in opposition to discrimination. Polls by the Human Rights Campaign have shown that 77% of Americans oppose job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The survey is in the Mail

The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters will be mailing 1000 gay and lesbian residents of the Lehigh Valley a survey on violence and discrimination. The Survey seeks to study the incidences of violence and discrimination directed against gay men and lesbians across Pennsylvania. The survey is being conducted by the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay task Force which has done two previous studies. The survey is not to be confused with the survey done at the Lehigh Valley Pride Festival in

June by the Lehigh Valley Gay and Lesbian Task force, which sought to obtain information on discrimination in the Lehigh Valley. Both surveys will provide important information that will be useful passing a gay and lesbian civil rights ordinance in Allentown. The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters encourages everyone to complete the survey and return it as soon as possible.



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Where the Big Boys Play !

Saturday, Dec. 16

The Stonewall proudly presents

**THE LEHIGH VALLEY
GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

in concert - 10pm

Wednesday, Dec. 20

EMPLOYEE TALENT SHOW

To benefit AIDS Outreach

\$2 cover

Sunday, Dec. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

- Special Happy Hour 9-10•
- Full Hot/Cold Buffet•
- Hats & Noisemakers•
- Complimentary Champagne•
- Michael Ferreri on Piano 9:30-1:30
- Both floors open at 9pm - \$10 cover

Holiday Hours:

Christmas Eve Dec. 24 .. Lounge 2pm-2am / Disco 10pm-2am

Christmas Day Dec. 25 .. Lounge 8pm-2am / Disco 10pm-2am

New Years Day Jan. 1 .. Lounge 8pm-2am / Disco 10pm-2am

STONEWALL

28-30 N. 10th Street Allentown, PA 18101 610-432-0215

Dance



Eat



Play



photo: © David M...

Coming Events

DATE	TYPE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
1	L	"BETTY"	9PM	DIAMONZ
2	L	SHARON ETTINGER	9PM	DIAMONZ
2	L	MICHAEL OGBORN	10PM-1:30AM	STONEWALL
3	***F	FACT ANNUAL SNOWBALL	CALL	A-TOWN HILTON
6	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11PM	CARTWHEEL
6	D	MAXI CARTER SHOW	11:30PM	STONEWALL
9	L	DAMZELS	9PM	DIAMONZ
9	L	MICHAEL OGBORN	10PM-1:30AM	STONEWALL
11	D	THE CHRISTMAS DRAG SHOW	CALL	SCARAB
13	S/F	DIAMONZ EMPLOYEE X-MAS SHOW	9PM	DIAMONZ
13	ST	MALE STRIPPERS	11PM	CARTWHEEL
13	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12 AM	STONEWALL
15	L	ELAINE PAXSON	10PM-2AM	STONEWALL
16	L	LAURIE RICCABONE	9PM	DIAMONZ
16	F/L	LEHIGH VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS	CALL	STONEWALL
16	P/D	13th Anniversary Party/'Diana Ross' Show	CALL	SCARAB
17	P/S	X-mas Party / Ida Rosenberg Show	7pm-2am	CANDIDA
17	F	BINGO FOR FACT	5-9PM	STONEWALL
20	F/S	EMPLOYEE TALENT SHOW	CALL	STONEWALL
20	F/S	Francine's X-mas Show/AIDS benefit	11PM	SELECTIONS
20	P/D	X-mas Party / TINSEL GARLAND	9PM-2AM	CARTWHEEL
21	F/L	Don Horton's Sounds of the City	8PM	OPEN SPACE GALLERY
22	L	STEPHEN TIPPET JAZZ TRIO	10:30PM-1:30AM	STONEWALL
23	P	CHRISTMAS PARTY W/DJ HEIDI	CALL	B-TLS
23	***P	DIAMONZ 3rd ANNIVERSARY PARTY	CALL	DIAMONZ
27	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12 AM	STONEWALL
27	ST	MALE STRIPPERS	11PM	CARTWHEEL
30	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	10:30PM-1:30AM	STONEWALL
30	L	KATE & CJ	9PM	DIAMONZ
31	P	NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY	8PM-2AM	SELECTIONS
31	P/L	New Years Eve Party/ FEM 2 FEM	CALL	B-TLS
31	P	NEW YEARS EVE PARTY	8PM-2AM	CANDIDA
31	P	NEW YEARS EVE PARTY	9PM-2AM	CARTWHEEL
31	P/L	New Year's Eve Party / Michael Ferreri	9PM-2AM	STONEWALL
31	P	NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY	CALL	BABES'
31	P	NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY	CALL	DIAMONZ

EVENT TYPE CODES

**P - PARTY L - LOUNGE/ LIVE VOCAL ST - STRIP SHOW S - MISC. SHOW SO - SOCIAL EVENT
D - DRAG SHOW F - FUND-RAISER *** - SPECIAL EVENT B - BAR PROMO SP - SPORTS EVENT**

Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source information, we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide, and call the individual organizations for more information and/or confirmation.

SUNDAY

- HAPPY HOUR & BUFFET / CANDIDA / 6-8PM
- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL

MONDAY

- ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
(not on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1)
- DRAG SEARCH w/ Monica Rey / CARTWHEEL

TUESDAY

- COUNTRY-WESTERN / CARTWHEEL / 8:30pm
- COUNTRY-WESTERN / DIAMONZ / 7:30-11:30PM
- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM
- KARAOKE / SCARAB

WEDNESDAY

- VIDEO DANCE NIGHT / SCARAB
- COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB
- MARDI GRAS / DIAMONZ

THURSDAY

- POOL LEAGUE / DIAMONZ / 8PM
- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- SLOW DANCE / DIAMONZ / 9-12
- OLDIES NIGHT / SCARAB
- KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM
- CLASSIC DISCO / Cartwheel / 9pm

FRIDAY

- Country-Western/Diamonz/7:30-10:30PM
- DJ Request Night/Diamonz/10:30-2:00
- MICHAEL FERRERI/CARTWHEEL

SATURDAY

- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL

WEEKLY



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by Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

Holidays or Hell Days

November and December are approaching with their special days. By the time you read this article, you may have already experienced the Thanksgiving holiday. Now for the December ones! That magical time when people are easily doing good deeds, in happy moods and easy smiles. That mystical time of gracious self-giving, festive foods, light, music, song and family gathering. OOPS - reality isn't always like the greeting card images for many of us. The winter holidays can be stressful, spiritually empty, emotionally draining and a family-feud frenzy. Holiday sights, sounds, and smells can bring depression, anxiety and adjustment difficulties. Commercial propaganda contrasted with reality creates a strong challenge in finding a solution to holding on to our sanity while finding purpose in celebration.

One way to rejoice is to find a reason to rejoice during this special holiday time. We can focus on our own personal sacred journeying through the year and celebrate whatever truly deserves celebration in each of our lives. As we perceive our life as a sacred journey, we recognize that the only approval of our journey can come from ourselves and from whatever sacred power we choose to believe in. We can stop, reflect, be gentle with ourselves and nurture our soul's commitment to life.

People who come from dysfunctional families, and who of us doesn't, find that when it comes to holiday stress there's no place like home! If we choose to spend the holidays with family-of-origin members, it is important to keep a hold on rational thought. Don't get expectations up, don't hope that it's going to be better than last year. Hopefully it will be, but if you have that as an expectation you're very likely to be disappointed. Stay clear on the fact that you made the decision to spend time with these people you call family. Realize you're only going to spend a few hours with them. If you travel out of town to see them, get a room at a local hotel rather than spending all your time in the same household.

Being single can make you long for a miracle drug to get you through to mid-January. The holiday season can make people evaporate and if you're not out at work you do not have a daily work support system available. If you have developed a chosen family, you will be able to spend holiday time with people who truly know you, accept you and affirm you. That may be more than others get when they return to family-of-origin members. Chosen-family members can be

creative in devising rituals, prayers, songs, foods that speak to the sacredness of the chosen-family rather than society's traditions.

If chosen-family is not an option, please consider celebrating the sacredness of the season by giving the gift of service. Call one of our community's many groups and offer your time. You may be able to deliver food to HIV infected/affected families, visit a hospitalized person or do the holiday gift shopping for someone unable to make the trip to the jammed parking lots at the crowded malls. Call AIDS Outreach, FACT, MCC, Grace Covenant or AIDS Services Center. Service to others is a way for you to bless the holidays, and you will find yourself blessed in the process.

If you're concerned about your ability to get through the holiday season without serious emotional difficulties an/or dependence on alcohol/drugs, consider getting professional help. Seeking the advice, guidance and listening skills of a therapist does not mean that you're locked into therapy sessions for the long term. Sometimes talking out feelings and fears in a safe environment with an objective person can be enough to give you a sense of clarity and balance. This is a sacred time of year, this is your sacred journey, and you need to celebrate your own sacredness. Make these your holy days.



Brian Foley, a long time friend of the community passed away on Sunday, November 19.

Brian was one of the first people to be diagnosed with AIDS in the Lehigh Valley. He dedicated his life to the education, support, and fundraising efforts associated with

this disease. He was well known throughout our area for his work with AIDS Outreach and the AIDS Services Center, where he formerly served as a board member.

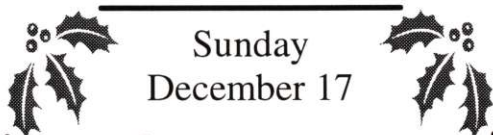
In 1991, Brian founded the Positive Plus newsletter, and had served as its editor up until his death. He was an inspiration to all who knew him, never giving his disease control of his life. As a volunteer, Brian's efforts were unparalleled in helping others in their struggle with AIDS.

For his untiring work for the community, Foley was awarded the AIDS Services Center Prism Award as well as FACT's Presidents Award.

There will be a memorial service for Brian Foley at 1pm on Saturday, December 9 at the Stephen's Funeral Home, 1335-37 Linden Street, Allentown.

Candida

Just a few doors from home!



Sunday
December 17

Christmas Party

- Hot Buffet 7-9 pm •
- Champagne Punch •
- Happy Hour Prices 6-8 pm •

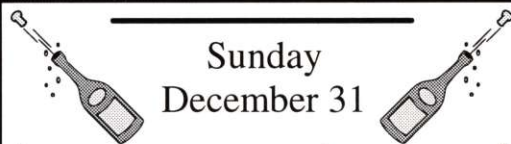
featuring

Ida Rosenberg's ...



**Home
for the
Holidays
Review**

\$ 7 cover



Sunday
December 31

New Year's Eve Celebration

- Bar opens at 8 pm •
- Special Buffet •
- Champagne •
- Hats & Noismakers •
- DJ 10pm - 2am •
- Cash bar •

\$ 7 cover



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Art



A Focus on Nature

Photography is often argued to be a craft and not an art form. If this were true, anyone with a camera could evoke the same thoughts and emotions as do popular photographers such as the late Ansel Adams.

Paul Grecian, our featured artist this month, has been photographing elements in nature since his late teenage years. Having grown up in Northeast Philly, Grecian started out capturing images at the Philadelphia Zoo. He was always fascinated with the technology of photography and its ability to capture single moments in time.

After High School Grecian attended Beaver College where he met his wife Donna. While attending Beaver, he majored in psychobiology, but never abandoned his other interest and took four semesters in black and white photography. After graduate studies at the University of Delaware, he moved to Lansdale and then on to Quakertown, where he and his wife now reside.

The majority of Grecian's work over the years has been focused on nature and wildlife photography. Although this field is highly competitive, his work has

drawn the attention of numerous publications. Many of his photographs have been published in various different avenues. His nature images of Bucks County have been seen in *Woman's World* magazine, *Bucks County Town & Country Living* magazine, *Nature Photography* magazine, and *Scenic Expression of Bucks County Pennsylvania*, a hard-bound "coffee table" volume. Buck's County Tourist Commission has included many of his photographs, depicting the natural splendor of their area, in numerous brochures and visitors guides and he has also produced images for use in travel guides. His work will also be featured in the upcoming publications of *Scenic Expressions of Brandywine River Valley*, and *Country Gardens* magazine. Recently Grecian started making his photographs available for sale in matted, framed prints.

Two of his images are shown within this article, although the black and white format of this magazine barely shadows the true energy of these photographs. He would like to promote his work locally, but has often had trouble in finding the proper venues in which to present them. Many art/craft shows do not allow photographs as part of their included displays. This may be in part due to photography being thought of as it relates to portrait work, lending the photographers themselves to be, as Grecian noted, "all lumped into one category." As previously noted, many think of photography as a technical function that is a craft and not an art form. We all take pictures, and often think they are great, however our feelings for these images are usually based on our direct tie to the subject matter or occasion involved. The art of capturing an image that is compelling to one who has not previously experienced that "moment in time" is truly just that, an art.

Paul Grecian successfully captures images that are visually stimulating. His nature and wildlife photographs show a distinct appreciation for depth, perspective and beauty; something he partially credits to his mother, an artist working mainly in pastels. Some of his work will be available at the ongoing "Holiday Arts & Crafts Boutique" at Open Space Gallery in Allentown through January 6, 1996. His work has also been previously seen in Peace Valley Park displays and at the Tinicum Art Festival. He will also be included as part of the Bucks County Audobon Society's Wildlife Festival on December 3rd and 4th.





If you would like more information about Paul Grecian prints, please contact him through Open Space Gallery at 610-432-3091 or AboveGround Magazine at 610-821-1321.

SHOWINGS

The Blue Ribbon Gallery

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New Hope, PA
(215) 862-3622

Pastels by award winning

DRESSLER SMITH

Featured works of

MICHAEL ISKRA

acrylics - oils - pastels - etchings - nudes

The Allentown Art Gallery

5th & Court Streets
Allentown, PA
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Keith Haring:

Family and Friends Collect

Continuing through December 31

Jenny Holzer

Continuing through January 14, 1996

Three Artists:

Mark Mahosky, Peter Metzler,

Mark Wonsidler

Continuing through December 31

All That Glitters is Gold

Continuing through January 14, 1996

Open Space Gallery

913 Hamilton Mall
Allentown, PA
(610) 432-3091

**Holiday Arts &
Crafts Boutique**

Unique gifts for
special people

Continuing through January 6

NOVEMBER 24 - JANUARY 6

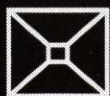
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HOLIDAY ARTS & BOUTIQUE
crafts

— Unique gifts for special people —

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OPEN SPACE GALLERY

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**14 Antidote for the Straight
Holiday Blues
LGLV Holiday Potluck for
Lesbians and Gay Men**

Does the phrase "Home for the Holidays" make you run screaming from the room? When you're "Dreaming of a White Christmas" do you wake up in a cold sweat? Was the last time you had a happy holiday with your family the year you got that Susie Homemaker Oven that heats with a light bulb?

Need a dose of moral support before you go home bunky?

Well here it is! The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters is hosting a pot-luck supper for lesbians and gay men on Thursday, December 21, 7:00 PM at the Cetronia Fire Hall. There will be music, goofy door prizes, food (if everyone brings a dish) and people like us instead of people like them. It's a smoke free, non-alcohol event.

The Voters' League will also give out information about who won the local elections and where these new political leaders stand on issues of importance to our community.



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So come out, have a gay old time and meet new friends in the community. Please bring a dish, and a serving utensil for it if necessary. You can bring your favorite holiday record or CD too. No admission fee, just a \$1 or \$2 donation to help defray the cost of the hall.

Directions to the Cetronia Fire hall: Take Cedar Crest Blvd. to the traffic light between Cedar Crest College and Chew St., turn onto Broadway. Go 8/10 of a mile. The fire hall is on the left, behind the fire station. Call 610-432-5449 for more info or if you just can't decide what to bring. See you there!

GET THE NET !!!

Now you can e-mail us here at AboveGround

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RXSH09A@PRODIGY.COM

Send your letters, comments, suggestions,
or just say hello!

Give us an E-mail address, we'll talk back!

Christmas Party



featuring
**TINSEL
GARLAND**
and Guests



Wednesday Dec. 20
DISCO OPENS 9PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, Dec 24

- Serving dinner at Mo's
- Christmas caroling in the Piano Bar
- Disco opens 9pm



CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, Dec 25

- Dance, dance, dance!
- Disco opens 9pm



NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, Jan. 1 1996

- Serving BRUNCH at Mo's 11:30am - 3:30pm
- Disco Opens 9pm
- Drag Search w/Monica Rey 11:00 pm



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Sunday
December 31

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NEW HOPE PA

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16 THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS ...How did the Valley Fare? by Steve Black

The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters held its annual pre-election cocktail party on Sunday, October 29 at the Monterey Cafe in Allentown.

Over 50 people attended the event including four candidates for Allentown City Council, several candidates for Lehigh County Council and one candidate for Allentown School Board. The candidates for Allentown City Council who attended were Robert Smith, Charles Canning, David Baush and Frank Concannon. Only two candidates for city council did not attend, Emma Tropiano and Tony Frey. All the candidates tried to earn the votes of those in attendance, but Robert Smith clearly out-did the others with his promise to introduce a gay and lesbian civil rights ordinance.

Since the cocktail party generated new information on the candidates that was not available for publication in the Voters' Guide, leaders of the local LGLV Chapter decided to send a special mailing to all the gay and lesbian residents of Allentown on its list. 400 letters were mailed detailing the six Allentown City Council candidates' positions on the gay and lesbian civil rights issue.

The election Results showed some good news for the Allentown gay and lesbian community. Tony Frey, an incumbent city councilman who blocked previous efforts to pass a gay rights ordinance was defeated. David Baush, who promised to vote in favor of such an ordinance, won. Frank Concannon, would not commit to support a civil rights ordinance, gained a city council seat and then called Liz Bradbury and Trish Sullivan, Lehigh Valley LGLV coordinators, to schedule a lunch meeting to discuss gay and lesbian issues. The seemingly invincible, and outspoken Emma Tropiano was the top "vote-getter" of all city council candidates. Robert Smith, who promised to introduce gay rights legislation, lost the election, but is young and hopefully will run for office in the future.

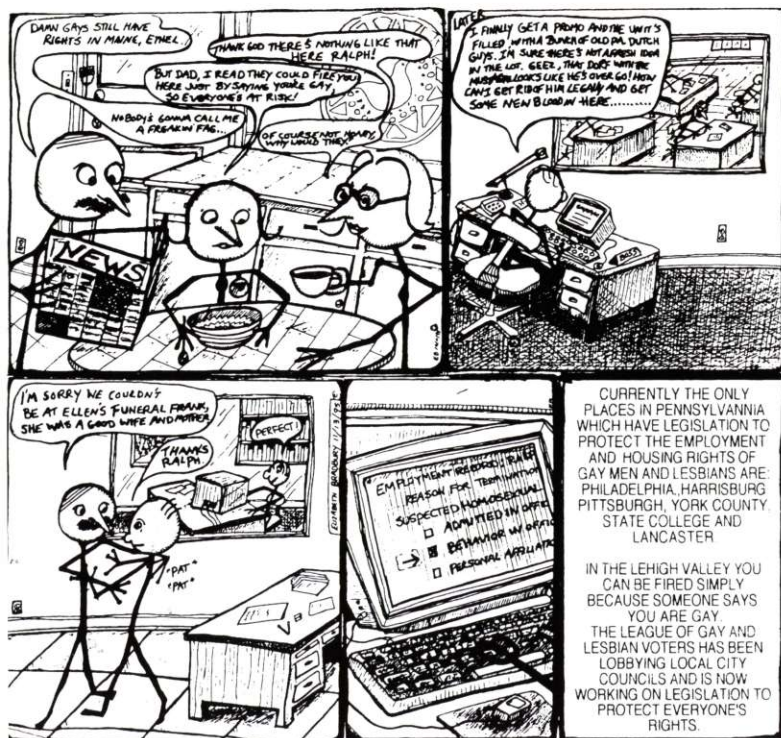
The stage is now set. LGLV plans to begin formulating a strategy to pass the gay and lesbian civil rights ordinance in Allentown. The Chapter aims to have an ordinance introduced and voted on by the city council during 1996. To get more involved in this effort, call LGLV at (610) 432-5449.

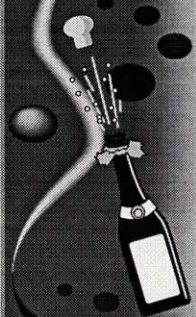


photo:
Candidate
Robert Smith
talks with Steve
Black about gay
& lesbian issues.

Editors note:

After attending the pre-election cocktail party, it became overwhelmingly evident to me just how valuable this organization can be to our local "family" community. In addition to showing our diverse presence to the candidates, it provided the opportunity for us to make them more aware of the prejudices that face us all. Many were unaware that, here in Allentown, there is no protection for gay and lesbian individuals who are unfairly relieved of position, or refused work, housing and services solely as a result of their sexual orientation. It is of the utmost importance that we join with this organization, and those like them, in showing our presence, strength and resolve. We do have the power to change our world, we only have to grasp the reins and hold on through the ride.





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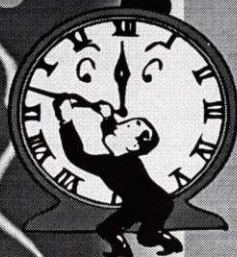
(Menu sent or faxed upon request)

Bring a lover, organize your friends, or
bring your Auntie Mame.



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B.Y.O.B.





Music

by C. Robert Frank

BEST OF MUSIC REVIEW '95... Great Holiday Gifts!

Artist: Jimmy Scott

Title: **DREAM**

What I said: "His vocals turn the blues into warm reds and luscious greens while never losing the drunken sorrows the blues are based on."

Artist: Chante' Moore

Title: **A LOVE SUPREME**

What I said: "Each track is lushly orchestrated and enveloped by Chante's emotionally rich vocals."

Artist: Repercussions

Title: **EARTH AND HEAVEN**

What I said: "Trust me on this one, this disc is essential."

Artist: M People

Title: **BIZARRE**

FRUIT

What I said: "They say artists create their best work during trying times, let's thank M People for being on the brink."

Artist: Frankie Knuckles

Title: **WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD**

What I said: "...the quintessential dance album of the summer."

Artist: Bjork

Title: **POST**

What I said: "POST may be like wine in that it is an acquired taste, but in the same manner, it is just as intoxicating."

Artist: Jimmy Somerville

Title: **DARE TO LOVE**

What I said: "This album is lyrically important, and musically concise."

Artist: KD Lang

Title: **ALL YOU CAN EAT**

What I said: "Ten delightfully placid movements to one opus."

Dear Mr. Frank:

In the September 1995 issue, page 18, you reviewed the new Jimmy Somerville album, Dare to Love.

I was surprised to learn of the duplicate mistake in packaging with the Polygram CD's. You suggest making an issue of this rather vocally at retailers.

I want to point out that no Bible bangers as you say are exerting influence at Polygram. Please be aware of the following:

1.) Polygram is majority owned by Phillips N.V. of the Netherlands, a regular advertiser in gay publications (electronics ads etc.)

2.) Philips USA operation based in Manhattan is a regular contributor and participates, including executive level, in the AIDS Walk New York.

3.) Polygram regularly produces avant garde material such as Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert (notice the Phillips banner at the bus send off), and many gay artists (Elton John, Abba, Village People, etc); it just so happens it also owns Verve and Motown labels (the mixed up music I imagine)

4.) Both companies are committed to a diverse workplace.

Making issue over the mistake would not serve well companies that are loyal to the community. I suggest a simple exchange is more appropriate.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours, J. Craig Bowers



Dear Mr. Bowers,

Sure, a simple exchange would be fine.

Humbly walking into the store, staring at my feet, mumbling "It's the wrong disc." But my top hat and tails were collecting dust, and my back-up singers were itching for a booking ... How could I let them down. I struck-up the band, and chorus-lined through the mall: "One! Simple Lil' Slip-up, and I'm now a born again ... DaDa Da Da Da Dum!"

Kidding aside, thank you for your informative letter. I am aware that Polygram and its parent company are gay friendly, but I also realize a company can never speak for all its employees. Although it probably was an ironic slip-up, my hypothesis may not have been too far-fetched. Disney, for example, does claim to believe in wholesome family enter-

DJ's TOP TEN

DJ : Michael De Cero
Club: CARTWHEEL
New Hope

1. Take Me Higher
DIANA ROSS
2. Hello
STATE OF GRACE
3. To Deserve You
BETTE MIDLER
4. Be My Lover
LA BOUCHE
5. Same Thing In Reverse
BOY GEORGE
6. Shoot Me With Your Love
D:REAM
7. When The Money's Gone
BRUCE ROBERTS
8. If I Were You
K.D. LANG
9. Toccata & Fugue in D Minor
VANESSA-MAE
10. Walkin'
FRANKIE KNUCKLES/ADEVA

DJ : Josh Wunner
Club: SELECTIONS
Wilkes-Barre

1. The Ultimate
ANTHEM
2. U Sure Do
STRIKE
3. Beautiful Life
ACE OF BASE
4. We Got It Goin' On
BACKSTREET BOYS
5. To Deserve You
BETTE MIDLER
6. I Specialize In Love
EXPOSE
7. A Mover La Colita
CHAZZ
8. Fantasy
MARIAH CAREY
9. Vamos A Bailar
JUANITO'S WAY
10. Padlock
M PEOPLE

DJ : Mike Tolleson
Club: DIAMONZ
Bethlehem

1. Same Thing In Reverse
BOY GEORGE
2. Thank You
BRENDA K. STAR
3. Be My Lover
LA BOUCHE
4. White Horse
THE JOY SOCIETY
5. Take Me Higher
DIANE ROSS
6. If I Were You
K.D. LANG
7. Beautiful Life
ACE OF BASE
8. I Specialize In Love
EXPOSE
9. Union City Blue (remix '95)
BLONDIE
10. To Deserve You
BETTE MIDLER

DJ : C. Robert Frank
Club: STONEWALL
Allentown

1. Fairground
SIMPLY RED
2. Beautiful Life
ACE OF BASE
3. Sugar Pie Guy
CLUB 69
4. Everybody Be Somebody
RUFFNECK
5. Viciosa
SUEÑO LATINO
6. If I Were You
K.D. LANG
7. Six Wings Of Bliss
GEOFF SMITH
8. Running Around Town
(DMCmix)
BILLIE RAY MARTIN
9. Walkin'
FRANKIE KNUCKLES
10. Everyday
INCOGNITO

DJ : Casey
Club: SCARAB
Reading

1. Running Around Town
BILLIE RAY MARTIN
2. Take Me Higher
DIANA ROSS
3. I'll Always Be Around
C&C MUSIC FACTORY
4. Believe In Me
RAW STYLUS
5. So In Love
ELLIE MAC
6. A Mover La Colita
ARTIE
7. Fantasy
MARIAH CAREY
8. When I Fall In Love
LIL' SUZY
9. I'm Alive
CUT N' MOVE
10. Beautiful Life
ACE OF BASE

REQUEST

DJ : Lis Flynn
Club: DIAMONZ
Bethlehem

1. Baby Baby
CORONA
2. Runaway
JANET JACKSON
3. Missing
EVERYTHING
BUT THE GIRL
4. Come And Get Your Love
REAL MC COYS
5. Sign Hallelujah
DR. ALBAN
6. Fantasy
MARIAH CAREY
7. Automatic Lover
REAL MC COYS
8. Close To You
FUN FACTORY
- classic-----
9. Feels Like I'm In Love
10. Electric Dreams

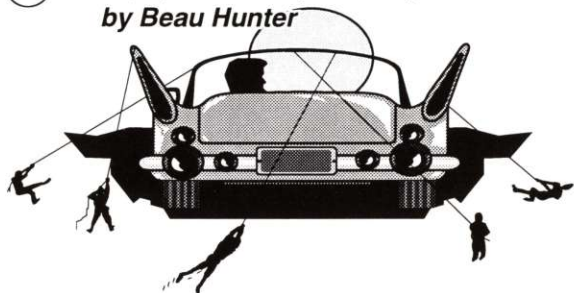
tainment; but a penis is on the cover of "The Little Mermaid" and the minister does get an erection while marrying Eric and Ursula! Accidental slip of the paint brush, or sabotage?

When I returned the disc, the simple statement "I am gay, not Christian" was met with a positive response. It identified me as one who is proud of my sexual orientation. Remember, visibility is necessary for acceptance.

**If you would like your club's
DJ or Video Top Ten Listed
In AboveGround call:
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"GAYLOVER'S TRAVELS"

by Beau Hunter



Beau has a game you can play with a friend, and all you need is your imagination. No, it's not that game, but if your friend is willing, I'd switch to it at a moments notice! I call this game "one, two, three ... what state am I in?" From only three words, your friend has to guess the state you have in mind. For example: surfing, volcanoes, hula - Hawaii! Very Good! How about horses, tobacco and bluegrass? Kentucky! Right again! Now try coal, ignorance and in-breeding. West Virginia, you say. Well, you are getting good at this!

So where was Beau last month? In West Virginia...Cahrlleston, to be exact. It was time to get some rest off the road and this was the last major city for many miles to come. Besides, when would I get here again? So, searching for any sign of gay life, Beau whipped it out (my gay guide that is!). Actually, there are more cruise areas and adult book stores in West Virginia than gay bars or organizations, so you might need to whip out that other gay magnet in the rest of the state.

Charleston, however, has three gay bars. The BROADWAY (210 Broad St.) was my first stop. About five blocks off the Broad Street exit on the left, it's easy to find. The neighborhood is reasonable with a mix of new and nice old buildings. The BROADWAY was once a funeral home, but has been converted into a pleasant, eclectic club. There are several small bar areas, a dance floor and an outdoor patio. The hunky doorman was the friendliest of the staff and some of the bartenders were distant, but all in all it's a nice place.

It was here that I met Larry and Ted, who live in Charleston, and Wayne who was visiting from Florida. They were friendly and patient with Beau's constant questions about the area.

Charleston is the capital of West Virginia with a population of about sixty thousand. The boys are in the East End section between the downtown and the capital buildings. The Kanawha river runs through town with the Capital buildings facing it. There are good roads in and out of town and an airport nearby.

About midnight, I decided I better check out the other major club before it closed. Actually, bars are open until 3:00 AM in West Virginia. Larry and Wayne said they'd go with me, but Ted stayed behind saying he didn't like the place. Larry said the GRAND PALACE wasn't as

nice as the BROADWAY. In fact, he said, "they'll just about let anyone with three dollars in."

THE GRAND PALACE (617 Brooks St.) is only a few blocks from the BROADWAY. It's in a warehouse area, which seems less safe, but the streets are brightly lit from blocks around. True to tales, we entered the club to find a bloodied young man begging the doorman to let him in. The "buzz you in" door seemed necessary here.

Inside I found the club very interesting. The first area has a bar, pool table and games. The back half is a huge stage/dance floor. Friday night features a big drag show that goes on forever. Apparently anyone can get up and do one number. Then there's a break and they all get another chance. The drag queens love this stage! It's large with great lighting. Old fashion go-go booths, totally outlined with lights, and 70's style, flashing colored floor panels at the side of the stage make this real glitzy! Just divine!!

The crowd was young and generally clean cut, but piercing and grunge also played well. About a third of the crowd was lesbian, and many had a cute, rough-boy look ... so be careful when choosing in this club. Of course there were all those drag queens too! I must say that the audience was very supportive of the show and generously gave tips to the performers.

Larry knew many of the people, so he made the evening very interesting and fun. I later asked him what there was for gay people to do in the Charleston area. Larry gave me the impression that there are very few pure gay activities. Instead, you make friends and go places with them.

Coonskin (I kid you not!) Park is a popular sunspot about 15 minutes from town. A gay pride picnic there last summer drew about 300 people. Word has it that there was a tackle football game between the gay men and lesbians. The men refused to be "skins," so the other team took off their tops! For other activities there is the Asbury Methodist Church, which has a gay-friendly congregation, and the LOST RIVER GUESTHOUSE. Unfortunately, the guesthouse is on the other side of the state, and not a practical day trip.

A popular non-gay event is the Regatta on the Kanawha river in late August. Otherwise, it's dinner with friends, brunch at the MARRIOTT, flea markets, shows, and so on.

There's another small gay bar called the TAP ROOM (1022 Quarrier St.). My hosts said that these gay clubs have been in Charleston between ten and twenty years, so there's a good chance they'll still be there if you pass through one day.

So, once again, Beau has bushwhacked the outback (is that dueling banjos I hear?) to let you know that Charleston, West Virginia is a good night out for the gay traveler. And by the way ... you didn't really believe I meant that bit about ignorance and inbreeding, did you? Oh, come on now!!



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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
Dec. 1-10
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THE CHRISTMAS CITY FOLLIES
Dec. 5-30
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Dec. 6-23
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Dec. 7-24
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December 11
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with Chamber Ensemble
December 14
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December 31
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Moravian College
THE BALTIMORE CONSORT
December 19
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Open Space Gallery
DEFENDING OUR LIVES
(film)
December 8
Larissa Brewington's CHRISTMAS W/ HARRIET TUBMAN
December 9
HAINES & REESE
December 17
Don Horton's SOUNDS OF THE CITY
December 21
call: 610-432-3091

L.V. Gay Men's Chorus Enchants the Crowd

by Colin Sheridan

I was treated to a wonderful night of men's choral music November 4 with the Fall Freedom concert by the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus (LVGMC) held at the newly opened Wesley United Methodist Church in Bethlehem.

The program opened with the emotional "alto rhapsody" by Johannes Brahms. This piece was highlighted brightly by the solo work of soprano Beverly Morgan. Ms Morgan, who is the artistic director for ACCO (A Chorus Celebrating Women), put depth into the solo which blended skillfully with the chorus, the backdrop for the German piece. Next came the stirring "Testament of Freedom," written by Randall Thompson for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. Testament is as relevant today as when our country was struggling for its freedom. Many people still fight for their freedom (lesbians are among them as we all know). While the impressive piano accompaniment almost overpowered the chorus at times, the words were very clear and understandable showing the full tone this small ensemble possesses when needed. There were a couple of momentary lapses in solidarity, but all pulled back together. Only someone familiar with the piece would know that something was out of place.

The first portion of the evening's menu was directed by guest conductor Dan Tuck who guided the chorus expressively and successfully through these intricate classical pieces. Two guest singers from the Delaware Valley Men's Chorus joined LVGMC in the first half.

After intermission, the Queen City Singers (QCS) came out and treated the audience to some "Men's gospel quartet"

Steve Black

Attorney

Vice Chair
League of Gay &
Lesbian Voters

1322 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-865-7890

333 S. Camac Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-735-0852

style singing. Christopher Miller, Steve Olofson, Robert Roush and Waid Smith made up the chorus based quartet as they sang "Sometimes Alleluia," 'a cappella'. They also performed a piece, the words of written by Olofson, entitled "Dawn Brings The Sunrise." They concluded their portion with a rich rendition of the old hymn "Nearer My God To Thee," ending with the audience joyously joining in, amidst a flurry of piano that would have made Liberace proud.

LVGMC then returned to the stage, under the direction of Robert Roush, after changing from their tuxedos to their familiar teal polo shirts and tan slacks. They started with the beautiful "To Love and To Be Loved," as recorded by The Turtle Creek Choral, and then moved into the old west by donning cowboy hats while performing Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In," a piece complimented by coyote howls and the sounds of excited horses. A brilliant highlight of the evening was a heart-warming rendition of "Shenandoah," showing the true potential of this group. While it featured soloist Steven Olofson, the real beauty showed in the cohesiveness in the voices all the way down to the final note which sounded as one voice, not ten. It was the final tug on a big red bow! The final song was a peaceful "Irish Blessing," written by first conductor Dan Tuck.

The chorus exited the stage leaving a very appreciative, and substantial, audience who encouraged them to an encore. I had previously heard the LVGMC perform the spiritual "There Comes A Time," but this time it hit me deep, as it seemed to with the rest of the audience. Its message of unity, combined with a high performance level, made this the best wine of the evening. "There Comes A Time" featured a trio consisting of Robert Haley, Christopher Miller and Steven Olofson and percussionist Robert Roush.

If this concert is any indication of what this chorus is capable of after only one year, I am looking forward to a bright and continued future for them. They will surely make their mark in the musically rich Lehigh Valley community.

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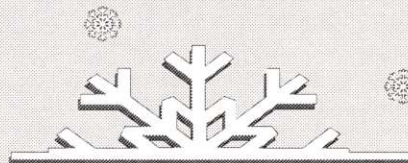
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by Liz Bradbury

This was important to the whole country because unlike the dastardly Colorado bill, which specifically said homosexuals could not be protected and thus tried to remove rights from gays and lesbians as a specific group, this Maine legislation was worded differently. Rather than naming homosexuals as a group to exclude, it aimed to only include groups whose rights are already federally guaranteed. While race, creed, age, sex, national origin and religion are protected federally, sexual orientation is not; nor are other groups not on the federal list, like veterans. By doing it this way the bill could not be judged as being aimed at taking away the rights of a specific group of people, and may have been more likely to escape the scrutiny of the courts. Had this bill passed in Maine, the cities of Portland and Long Island would have lost their gay rights bills and no new gay rights legislation could have been passed.

As has happened in so many cases in the past, the push to take away the rights of an entire group of people blew up in the oppressors' faces. Instead of withering, support of gays and lesbians was increased by forcing normally unaware, yet kind, gentle people to choose sides. Ultimately, more people chose not to hate and not to discriminate.

You must have your ID on your person at all times. Proper attire required.
Watch for monthly events listed in The Lavender Letter. Subs., call: 717-732-8010

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The organization "Maine Won't Discriminate" raised a whopping 1.75 million dollars in support of their cause. Celebrities such as Martina went to Maine to do benefits. The Governor made pro-gay rights commercials. People who were normally non-political became involved. As a result of this anti-gay assault a strong working pro-gay organization is in place to enact more legislation, run candidates, and disseminate information. Good for the people of Maine!

Meanwhile, here in Pennsylvania we have no protection from discrimination at the state or local level. While there is no current threat of legislation to prohibit communities from enacting anti-discrimination, the threat is always there. So beware.

Grass-roots organizations saved the rights of people in Maine. The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters, Lehigh Valley Chapter (our local grass-root political organization) is working on anti-discrimination legislation and lobbying members of local city councils with positive results. If you want to be a part of the movement to ensure our rights in this community, call the LGLV at 610-432-5449 and join in the effort.

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722 Hamilton Mall

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Blue Ribbon Gallery
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The Cartwheel
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Horrorscoops

by Evil Esther



AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb.18

Paint the town! This is a month of celebration for you. Say yes to all the invitations you get early this month. Have fun but be sensible. It's ok to let you hair down. Welcome new friends into your life, the someone you meet this month might be a friend for life.



GEMINI
May 21-June 20

Heds up! There are some surprises coming your way towards the end of the month. Be gracious when accepting them, and remember that all is not as it appears. Benefactor is someone unexpected, so be nice to everyone you know. Don't blow it!



LIBRA
Sept.23-Oct.22

Love is not under the tree for you this holiday season, but don't despair. How can Santa deliver this gift if he doesn't know? Send another, clearer list to him, don't be shy! Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Smile!!!!



PISCES
Feb.19-March 20

When was the last time you called your mom? Family is featured in the stars for you, so pick up that phone. Skipping that family gathering may cost you a lot more than you think! It's time to put the past where it belongs.



CANCER
June 21-July 22

Time marched on slowly last month. Spice up your life by having someone dangerous over for tea. Make sure you know what you're doing, though. Don't go overboard, simplicity is best. First impressions are important. Try a new hairstyle this month.



SCORPIO
Oct.23-Nov.21

Despite the cold weather this month, things heat up for you between the sheets. What was a slow burn will turn into a bonfire early this month. It is up to you to fan the embers. Enjoy it, but don't let yourself get burned.



ARIES
March 21-April 19

Treat yourself to something nice this month. When was the last time you bought yourself a present? Giving to others is admirable, but take the time to remember the one person you will always know -you. You deserve it.



LEO
July 23-Aug.22

Someone from your past is trying to contact you this month. Perhaps someone who owes you money or a favor? Don't be a snob. This contact could change your immediate future, for the better! Good things come in small packages.



SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21

Now you're cooking! Since you've got a good head of steam going, take it all the way. Don't pull back. You can make things happen this month if you keep moving. It's easy from here on, if you take control of your future right now.



TAURUS
April 20-May 20

Don't be so thick-headed when it comes to explanations this month. That someone you doubted recently could be telling the truth. It isn't easy to trust, but it is unwise to always doubt. You might be missing the finer points.



VIRGO
Aug.23-Sept.22

Don't lose sight of your career goals this month. A short side trip at work could cost you that promotion you are waiting for. Keep your hands out of the proverbial cookie jar and you will be rewarded in the middle of the month. Focus on work, not play.



CAPRICORN
Dec.22-Jan.19

Don't let others lean on you too much! You are always there for them, but don't let them take advantage of your kindness. Resist helping that needy person this month, regardless of the holiday season. They will drain you and never learn to help themselves!

*Horrorscoops are published for entertainment purposes only. Anyone running their life based on them is obviously in need of good therapy!! Life is short. Have a little Fun!!

FAMILY HEALTH



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Dr. John O. Cochran

1874 Catasauqua Road
Valley Plaza
Allentown, PA 18103

phone: 610-264-4949 fax: 610-264-3699

Community Resources

Bars / Clubs

ALLENTOWN

Candida

247 N. 12th St.
610-435-8424

Stonewall & Moose Lounge

28-30 N. 10th St.
610-432-0215

BETHLEHEM

Diamondz

1913 W. Broad St.
610-865-2081

HARRISBURG **B-TLS**

891 Eisenhower Blvd.
717-939-1123

Neptune Lounge

268 North St.
717-233-3078

Stallions

706 N. 3rd St.
717-232-3060

NEW HOPE

Cartwheel

Route 202
215-862-0880

Raven

385 W. Bridge St.
215-862-2081

READING

Scarab

724 Franklin St.
610-375-7878

Bars / Clubs

WILKES-BARRE

Babes'

1267 Main St.
Port Griffith-Pittston
717-883-7877

Selections

45 Public Square
717-829-4444

AIDS Related Organizations

AIDS Outreach

112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center

60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

Allentown Health Bureau -HIV testing_

245 N. 6th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
(contact David Moyer)
610-437-7742

FACT

P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105
610-820-5519

FACT Bucks County

P.O. Box 616
Buckingham, PA 18912

Latino AIDS Outreach

610-861-6845

Religious Affiliations

Grace Covenant Fellowship

247 N. 10th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-740-0247

Hope Ministries

Rev. Bob J. Forté
610-791-0716
24 hrs.-leave message.

Integrity

610-395-1785
610-758-8642

MCC of the Lehigh Valley

-worship at St. John's UCC
6th & Walnut Sts.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-439-8755

Universal Life Church, Inc.

Rev. Joél S. Diehl, DD,MsD.
610-433-5325 leave message

Community/Social Organizations

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance

P.O. Box 417
Reading, PA 19603-0417
610-373-0674

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley

Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters

Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0781
610-437-2294

Community/Social Organizations

Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force

P.O. Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-515-1551

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus

P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-821-0578

Lehigh Valley Lesbians

Bethlehem, PA
610-253-5454

North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.

P.O. Box 3694
Easton, PA 18043-3694
610-821-2955
E-mail:
Gendrfrend@aol.com

P-Flag

215-368-2473
215-234-4049

PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley

P.O. Box 20804
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-770-6200

Velvet Spikers

volleyball-tennis
P.O. Box 21862
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-1862
610-434-2966

What Old Allentown Has To Offer You!

By Gail Hoover, Realtor

Philly has South Street, New York has the "Village," San Francisco has Castro. What does Allentown have? THE OLD ALLENTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT!! Just think about it. As you drive around town, where do you see the most rainbow flags? In old Allentown! Where are 2 of the 3 area gay bars? In Old Allentown! Where do some of the best cultural events happen? In old Allentown, or at least within walking distance! Where are some of the absolutely FABULOUS homes, fit for a Queen or King? In old Allentown! When we have six foot of snow on the ground and are in a state of emergency, where do you have friends and "family" around to get together with or spend the snowed-in hours partying with at a corner pub? In Old Allentown!!

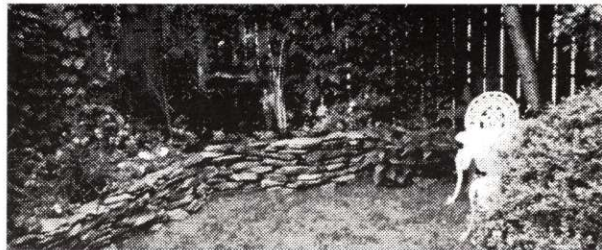
There is a spirit of community here. Living in the 200 block of north Tenth street, I enjoy being able to walk my dog on a Sunday afternoon (how lesbian of me) and wave to Tony through his living room window. Or walk by Candida's and see who got a tad bit too looped the night before by seeing which cars were left overnight! I enjoy just stopping by to see the latest redecorating or remodeling projects of Timmy & Mike or Steve & Gene. I got a real kick out of taking my daughter, Phallen, "Trick-or-Treating," and seeing Tony drive by in his flashy little sports car, all dressed in drag (hair, heels, make-up, nails as only Jaguar can do) waving "Hi Girl, Hi." Now come on, I DON'T THINK you'd see this in MACUNGIE!!

My point in all of this is that if you are thinking of moving, to rent or purchase, Old Allentown has got a lot to offer the gay and lesbian community.

Do you dream of the elegance of days gone by? Of grand entrances or graceful staircases, and cocktails by the fireplace? (and what queen hasn't?!) Or stained glass, carved woodwork and a charming garden with the peaceful gurgle of a fountain? You can find all of this and more in the Old Allentown Historic District. Homes in the district are a great value, providing you with affordable style and convenience and a level of quality that is not often achieved today.. at any price.

At one time or another, you've probably been in, and seen, some of these GRAND homes, either on the annual House Tour or while visiting a friend, and know just how large and gorgeous these homes can be. Many of the homes in the district have five bedrooms - plenty of space for your home office, entertainment room, exercise equipment and whatever else. You'd pay a lot more for this many rooms anywhere else!

Is "Connie Convenience" your name? Your own home just doesn't get more convenient than



this! Do you have more to do with your weekends than cut grass or shrubs? Old Allentown homes have private outdoor spaces that give you your own personal Eden without sacrificing your entire weekends to the lawnmower. Many people even have hot tubs next to the barbecue ... Ah, life is great!

So now that you're all relaxed, having soaked in the hot tub while flipping burgers all Saturday afternoon, what about night life? Have we got night life for you! Besides the Stonewall & Candida's, there is live theatre, public galleries, and the Allentown Symphony close by. In addition, there are numerous pubs and great restaurants, such as the Monterey on Linden Street. Want to cook a gourmet dinner? The Allentown Farmers' Market is just down the street. Close by is the Allentown Public Library as is West Park, a nice outdoor space that provides free Sunday evening concerts in the summer. It's just a short drive to public pools, the Allentown Municipal Golf Course and the Lehigh Parkway.

My vision for the Old Allentown Historic District is for every home to have a rainbow flag proudly displayed. There will be all sorts of wonderful little shops, galleries, coffee houses ... all either gay owned or gay friendly. We all have the beginnings in place already! So, if you are thinking of making a move, whether it be to purchase or rent, give Old Allentown some consideration. You'll be surprised at just how much it has to offer!

Gail Hoover is an Realtor serving the Lehigh Valley area. If you are interested in available properties within the district, please call her at (610)434-7919.

(610) 433-6260



David A. Nicholls

ATTORNEY AT LAW

609 HAMILTON MALL
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101

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CLASSIFIEDS

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MALE FRIENDS

Good Friends Are Important To Me! Hope To Establish New and Solid Friendships in Lehigh Valley Area. I May Dislike Bars and Avoid Drugs but This Christian is No Angel. Nice Looking, Non-Mainstream but Sensuous GWM/52/160# 5'8". ISO Local/Fit/Robust/Mature/Younger GWM.
Call (610) 867-4707 (Bethlehem)

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GWM looking to share Large Country Home \$300/Mo.
Call 610-373-1656

Poconos
Albrightville, PA 36GM
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212-567-1694 wk/D
717-722-3089 wk/E

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